

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-05 ISO-00 /009 R

66612

DRAFTED BY:AF/E:DWATERMAN

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R 102334Z DEC 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 270950

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT DAKAR 6736 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO KHARTOUM
DATED 9 DECEMBER 1974:

QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 6736

LIMDIS

O 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PFOR, SU, PINR

SUBJ: PROPOSED MEETING WITH SADIQ EL MAHDI

1. FADIL EL MAHDI, DAKAR BASED DIRECTOR OF UNITED (GULF)
FISHERIES OF KUWAIT OPERATIONS, TOOK EMBOFF ASIDE RECENTLY
AT RECEPTION TO TELL HIM THAT HIS COUSIN, EX-SUDANESE PRIME
MINISTER SADIQ EL MAHDI, WOULD BE MAKING EXTENDED
PILGRIMAGE TO SAUDI ARABIA SOMETIME IN DEC. FADIL
ASKED WHETHER AN AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE WOULD BE WILLING
TO MEET DISCREETLY WITH SADIQ EL MAHDI WHILE HE WAS ABROAD.

(EMBOFF HAS KNOWN FADIL EL MAHDI FOR OVER A YEAR,
OCCASIONALLY TALKS ABOUT SUDANESE DEVELOPMENTS WITH HIM,
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AND HAS NO REASON TO DOUBT THAT HE IS SADIQ EL MAHDI'S

COUSIN.)

2. FADIL SAID HE NOT AUTHORIZED DIVULGE REASONS FOR WHICH SADIQ WANTED MEETING. EMBOFF SAID HE COULD APPRECIATE THAT IT MIGHT BE EMBARRASSING FOR SADIQ MEET OFFICIALLY OR SOCIALLY WITH AMERICAN OFFICIALS BUT ADDED THAT HE WAS SUR THAT USG WOULD NOT WANT TO HAVE ANY CONTACT WITH SADIQ WHICH NIMERI GOVT, WITH WHICH WE HAVE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, MIGHT INTERPRET AS INTERFERENCE IN SUDANESE AFFAIRS. AT SAME TIME, EVENTUALITY OF A MEETING WAS NOT RULED OUT CATEGORICALLY. EMBOFF, WITHOUT BEING PARTICULARLY ENCOURAGING, ASKED IF FADIL MERELY WANTED TO HAVE EMBOFF'S OPINION AS TO ATTITUDE OF USG IN EVENT SADIQ REQUESTED MEETING OR WHETHER HE WISHED EMBOFF REPORT TO WASHINGTON, AS HE WAS WILLING TO DO, THAT SADIQ WISHED ARRANGE A MEETING. FADIL SAID HE WOULD OBTAIN MORE INFO ABOUT SADIQ EL MAHDI'S INTENTIONS AND DISCUSS MATER WITH EMBOFF AGAIN. HE ASSURED EMBOFF THAT SADIQ HAD NO INTENTION OF ASKING US TO INTERFERE IN SUDANESE AFFAIRS. EMBOFF REPLIED THAT WE WOULD NOT EVEN WISH GIVE APPEARANCE OF INTERFERENCE.

3. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE IN EVENT FADIL EL MAHDI RAISES THIS MATTER AGAIN. AGGREY UNQTE INGERSOLL

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